

## A Garden In Every School?



## Why School Gardens?

- Research Shows School Gardens Can Help to Enhance:
- Academic Achievement
- A Healthy Lifestyle
- Environmental Stewardship
- Community and Social Development

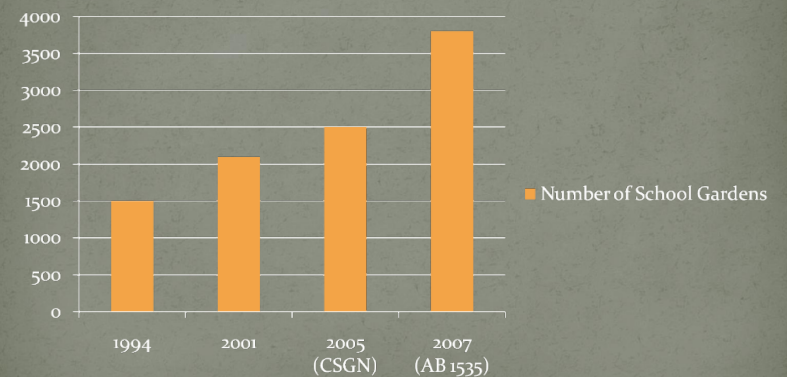


[www.csgn.org/research.php](http://www.csgn.org/research.php)



## A Decade (+) of School Gardening

Number of School Gardens



## The Reality of School Gardens

Challenges vary from site to site but often include:

- Limited funding
- No one person to shepherd the project
- Summer break
- Networking and communications within the school community
- Staff resistance



## Common Elements of a Successful School Garden

- All stakeholders understand the purpose and design of the project
- A Garden Committee is established to:
  - Plan the garden
  - Maintain the garden
  - Support the garden coordinator
  - Interface with school Parent Association & school community
  - Raise funds
  - Have fun!
- Professional Development to support teachers and parents

## “There is Power in Unity”

- A network is resilient

- Networks have greater clout

Larger grants – Recognition – District wide program development

- Networks develop relationships, collaborations and colleagues – which in turn can strengthen the network
- Resources can be bundled/shared = reduced costs
- Networks can share best practices

- **A regional support model** is a program, policy or staff person(s) that supports multiple school gardens in a defined region (eg. district, city or county).



## Successful Regional School Garden Networks

- There is no “one model”
- Varied funding sources
- Often these networks are acknowledged by the region which they serve
  - posted on web site - proclamation/board resolutions
- Ideally these networks become a program of the district or a project of a non-profit.

## Real School Gardens, Dallas-Fort Wt.

- Since 2003 provided direct support to 66 schools primarily low income schools in the Dallas-Fort Worth area (6 school districts)
- 40,000 children, 2,300 educators
- 6 program staff provide:
  - Garden installation
  - Teacher professional development (workshops, model teaching)
  - Unique community building and programming

*...we “build community” around a child. Not through a program, but through relationships. A school garden is not an island.*

[realschoolgardens.org](http://realschoolgardens.org)

## City Sprouts – Cambridge, MA

- Founded in 2000, now with staff of 9 that partners with 12 Cambridge Public School (primary and middle)
- Part-time garden coordinator at each school provides maintenance and teacher support
- Afterschool drop-in programming and summer internship program for middle school students
- Trained 293 teachers, 73% of all teachers reported using the garden
- Annual budget of \$323,000

*...“writing the CitySprouts school gardens” into the science curriculum*

[citysprouts.org](http://citysprouts.org)

## San Diego Master Gardeners

- 60 Master Gardener Volunteers serve on the School Garden Committee
- Plant a Seed, Watch it Grow Webguide
- 12 PowerPoint presentations for others to use
- Grant Calendar
- School Garden Consultants
- Countywide School Garden Database
- *Gardening with Class* Garden & Nutrition Conference

[mastergardenerssandiego.org](http://mastergardenerssandiego.org)

## Santa Cruz City Schools

- All four elementary schools have paid garden coordinators
- Paid 20 hours/week with benefits
- Originally funded by a variety of sources
- Now funded as part of Education Parcel Tax
- Supportive GBL community (CAFF, Life Lab, Network for a Healthy California, Wellness Policy, Long History)

## Urban Sprouts – San Francisco

- Urban Sprouts grew out of a doctoral thesis project conducted by Dr. Michelle M. Ratcliffe in 2003-04
- 5 staff serve seven middle & high schools, directly serving 750 youth ~ budget \$225,00
- Staff co-teaches with classroom teachers and preps garden lessons
- Garden maintenance through student classes and big volunteer projects.

*...we use a garden-based education model that is based on theory, focuses on behavior change, and we are testing it with research.*

[urbansprouts.org](http://urbansprouts.org)

## Sonoma School Garden Network

- Since 2003, offered nearly \$70,000 in grant funding to 12 local schools
- Provides paid mentors to support schools
- Provides curriculum to the Sonoma County Office of Education
- Coordinates plant and seed donations
- Creates alliances with community partners & volunteers
- Sponsors conferences and networking events

[schoolgardens.org](http://schoolgardens.org)

## Network for a Healthy California

- A statewide movement of local, state and national partners working toward increased fruit and vegetable consumption and daily physical activity.
- Multiple venues are used to facilitate behavior change in the homes, schools, worksites, and communities of low-income Californians
  - Berkeley USD – 12 Schools
  - Hayward – 38 Schools





## LIVING CLASSROOM

- Program Director, Courtney Cadwell
- Affiliated with the Los Altos School District
- Currently Serves Grades K-3 in 7 Elementary Schools
- Program History & Future Plans
- Program Funding & Budget
- Challenges
- Success!



## Program Partners

### • 2008-2009 Donors

- The Packard Foundation
- The Morgan Family Foundation

### • 2009-2010 Donors

- The Los Altos Educational Foundation
- The Morgan Family Foundation
- Clorox "Green Heroes" Grant
- The Los Altos Community Foundation Youth Philanthropy Program
- Bay Area Community Sustainable Agriculture
- School PTAs - Gardner Bullis, Loyola, Springer, and Oak Schools
- Whole Foods "Nickels for Non Profits" Program
- Private Individuals



### • Inkind Donors

- Summerwinds Nursery, Mountain View
- Coyote Valley Nursery
- Satake Nursery
- Peninsula Building Materials
- Capitol Wholesale Nursery
- Mark Seidler Designs
- Freestyle Academy of Communication Arts & Technology



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## Program Budget

2008-2009 Total Budget \$45,000	2009-2010 Total Budget \$62,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel \$42,500</li> <li>• Supplies \$2,500</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel \$56,000</li> <li>• Garden Supplies \$1,500</li> <li>• Lesson Supplies \$2,500</li> <li>• Docent Training \$500</li> <li>• Publicity \$1,500</li> </ul>



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## Challenges

- Funding
- Administrator & Teacher Buy-In
- Volunteer Docent Recruitment & Training
- Lesson Design & Curriculum Alignment
- Garden Construction



LIVING CLASSROOM

## Success!

- 2008-2009 School Year
  - 171 Lessons were taught at 5 Elementary Schools
  - 37 Teachers Participated in the Program
  - Nearly 900 students experienced at least one lesson
- 2009-2010 School Year
  - New Partnerships
  - More Docents
  - Lessons are now offered at 7 Elementary Schools
  - Currently on track to teach 280 lessons this school year



## San Francisco Green Schoolyard



## SFGSA/SFUSD School Garden Map



## SFGSA provides:

- professional development for teachers and school community
- strategies for sustainability
- technical support
- networking and community building
- listserve
- monthly resource bulletin
- quarterly meetings
- roundup of city-wide resources
- advocacy
- grants
- curriculum library
- Growing Greener School Grounds Conference



## SFGSA Model :

- Works closely with SFUSD Bond programs
- Works out of SFUSD Facilities building
- SFUSD provides office space, computers & office support
- 2.5 Employees
- Advisory Board
- Budget is \$150- \$200K/year
- funds raised through foundation grants, government contracts, and individual donors, and conference
- always seeking corporate sponsorship

## School Garden Promoter Resources

- [csgn.org](http://csgn.org)
  - Gardens for Learning
  - Creating and Sustaining Your School Garden
    - Videos
  - Regional Contacts
- [lifelab.org/schoolgardens](http://lifelab.org/schoolgardens)
  - Curriculum and Professional Development
  - Promoters Toolbox
- [kidsgardening.com](http://kidsgardening.com)

## Q and A

